from time to time, the States impose power cuts of varying degrees on different classes of consumers.

(b) The reasons for power shortage are increase in demand and reduced hydro-generation on account of low reservoir level. With a view to improve the power supply position, efforts are being made to expedite commissioning of new capacity, improve the performance of thermal power stations, reduce the down time of thermal power stations on forced outages etc.

Loss of Coal .....

544. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of coal is lost in the transit from the coal mines to the destinations;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what are the estimated losses during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated by Government to prevent such losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Coal companies sell coal on FOR colliery basis. After the coal is handed over to the Railways, it is not possible for the coal companies to have any control or assessment or loss of coal in transit. However, the Railways have taken a number of steps to prevent the loss of coal during rail transit. These steps are:

(1) As far as possible, Railway Protection Force personnel are deployed to escort block-loads of coal wagons in crime prone areas|sections.

(2) Vulnerable yards and affected places which are prone for thefts of coal are also patrolled by armed RPF men as well as by dog squads with a view to tracking down the criminals indulging in theft of coal.

(3) Fixed prickets are posted|deployed in vulnerable sections|black spots to prevent theft of coal from running trains.

(4) Crime Intelligence staff of the Railways and Central Crime Bureau of Railway Board are deployed to collect crime intelligence about the activities of coal thieves and receivers and conduct raids on them for the recovery of stolen coal and arrest of criminals|receivers.

Discovery of Oil Resources ....

545. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new oil resources were discovered in the off-shore regions and within the country during 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details of the same indicating their potential; and

(c) what steps are being taken to exploit those resources commercially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Oil was discovered in the following prospects:—

ONSHORE	
Kaikalur	Andhra Pradesh
Namti	Assam
Shalmari	
OFFSHORE	
R-71	
CD	
CA	West Coast
B-42	
R-7A	

The potential of the finds and the commercial exploitation will depend upon further delineating drilling.

Annual requirements of petroleum and petroleum products .. ....

546. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual requirement of petroleum and its products;